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Mr. PRESIDENT :—" May I know what is the exact position today in the matter? Are you paying the subsides or stopped them pending the correspondence with the Government of India?"

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" We have already instructed the Collectors of districts, on the basis of the letter of the Government of India, to stop distribution of loans. But, as I have already said, we have had discussions with the Government of India representative a few days back on the question, and he has said that the question will be re-examined."

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the statement of the Food Commissioner to the Government of India reported in today's papers that the old system would continue?"

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have also seen it in the newspaper; but I have not had direct information."

Rates of dearness allowance granted to Government servants.

* 5 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what the rates of dearness allowance granted to various classes of Government servants are;

(b) whether the rates are based on any data such as the cost of living index;

(c) whether the Government servants are in receipt of any other allowances besides dearness allowance and if so, what they are and what the rates of such allowances are;

(d) whether the servants of local bodies and municipalities are also entitled to similar allowances;

(e) whether the Government have received representations requesting for higher rates of dearness allowance; and

(f) how the Government have dealt with these representations?

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (a) A copy[a] of the consolidated order showing the rates of dearness allowance admissible to Provincial Government servants is placed on the table.

" (b) The rates of dearness allowance are fixed by the Government taking into consideration the increase in the cost of living and the ability of the Government to meet the expenditure on the payment of the allowance.

" (c) House-rent allowance is allowed in addition to dearness allowance to Government servants on pay not exceeding

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a Printed as Appendix II on pages 278—280 infra

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Rs. 150 per mensem who are employed in Madras City or in mufassal towns with a population of 50,000 and above. The rates are as follows :—

	Madras City.	Municipal towns with a population of 50,000 and above.
	RS.	RS.
(A) Government servants in receipt of a pay of less than Rs. 40 per mensem.	5	3
(B) Government servants in receipt of a pay of Rs. 40 or more but not more than Rs. 80.	7	5
(C) (i) Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 80 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	10 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 10.	7
(ii) Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 150 per mensem	Do.	10

" The concession has been extended to the district headquarters, towns of Anantapur, Kurnool, Chittoor and Cuddapah.

" (*d*) All servants of local boards and municipal councils are entitled to dearness allowance at Government rates. The Government have also sanctioned the payment of house rent allowance to the employees of such of the municipal councils and district boards as can meet the expenditure from their own funds. The principles governing the payment of the allowance to Government servants are applicable to the servants of district boards and municipal councils as well.

" (*e*) Yes.

" (*f*) The request for enhancement of the rates of dearness allowance has not been complied with as the expenditure involved is considerable and as it is impossible for the Government in their present financial position to increase their expenditure on the payment of dearness allowance."

Sri B. BHIMA RAO :—" Do Government consider that the rate of dearness allowance they give is quite adequate compared to the cost of living at the present day? "

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are aware that the cost of living index is going up; but hon. Member must also consider the inability of the Government to pay any more increase of dearness allowance."

Sri P. R. K. SARMA :—" Will not Government pay at least a living wage to their Government servants? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Payment of living wage may be applicable to Government servants in industrial concerns but not to other Government servants."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether Government pay a living wage, minimum wage or fair wage to their employees? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" So far Government have not accepted to give any such living wage to their employees."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether skilled and unskilled workers are paid at different rates of daily and house-rent allowances in the School of Arts? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Have Government decided not to increase the dearness allowance of their servants? Have they considered the possibility of increasing it? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I would not be correct if I say they have not considered it."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, are they not setting a bad example to other employers when Government are not going to give a living wage to their employees? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Other employers employ people with a profit motive. But Government do not employ them with a profit motive."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know for whose benefit Government are preparing the cost of living index, if it is not for themselves? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" For the benefit of the public."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not also for the benefit of Government that the cost of living index is prepared? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There is no liability to follow it up."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Regarding the employees of Government, is it not a fact that the scale of allowances given to them have some corresponding relation with the cost of living? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The capacity of Government to pay should also be considered."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, whether in respect of employees engaged in Government industries such as Government workshop the rates of dearness allowance are not more than those granted to ordinary Government employees? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"It is not desirable to draw a distinction between industrial concerns and non-industrial concerns. It must be on a par with numerous Government employees as otherwise there will be an invidious distinction."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are Government aware that in the day-to-day industrial disputes awards on account of the quantum of wages allowances, etc., to be paid are being given, and Government are unable to enforce their decision ; whereas what the trade unions recommend is much higher than what Government gives to its employees? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I cannot be expected to be familiar with what is all happening elsewhere, because it is not a matter pertaining to my department."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether Government have made any provision or intend to make any provision for giving a higher amount of dearness allowance to their employees in centres like Ellore where the cost of living index is considerably higher than that of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There is no such proposal."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are Government aware of the distress of pensioners who are not given adequate dearness allowance? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are familiar with very many distresses; but our distress also must be known by the public."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know whether Government would bring down the increased cost of living, at least, to the extent to which they are themselves responsible? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We are taking all possible steps to see that the cost of living comes down; but it does not come down."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Are not bus fares increased only last week due to the increased cost of living? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Not to my knowledge."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Will the Hon. Minister inquire and see that the rates of fares are brought down to the former level? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not wish to take the information of my hon. Friend; because I know the bus fares have not been increased recently."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to take the information I now give and take steps to bring down the rate of fares to the former level? "

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THE HON SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I know that the hon. Member is not correct, and so I am not prepared to act on his information."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" I have paid actually enhanced fare."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Perhaps the hon. Member has paid more unknowingly." (Laughter.)

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" No, Sir, I paid two annas and got a ticket for two annas."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I am afraid you have paid more."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether any officer of Government is empowered to examine municipalities and local bodies which can afford to pay dearness allowances are paying them regularly? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" As far as I am aware all local bodies are paying dearness allowance at the rate sanctioned by Government. The Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils is certainly competent to look into the matter."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what steps the Central and Provincial Governments have taken to inquire into the causes responsible for the rise in price index, and have they set up any machinery to see what are the conditions under which price index can be stabilised? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is the business of the Government of India to find it out; it is not purely the business of the Local Government. Whatever inquiry the Central Government holds is for the whole of India. I do not know whether they have enquired into the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Should not this Government, being aware of the rising cost of living, make a representation to the Government of India about it instead of sitting quiet with folded hands? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" What is the sort of representation the hon. Member wants the Local Government to make, I do not know."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar asked a question, ' what steps are being taken by the Provincial Government to examine the causes that are attributable to the rising cost of living index? ' The Hon. Minister simply replied that it is the work of the Government of India; it is not the responsibility of the Provincial Government. I ask, why should you not, when you know, in your Province, the cost of living index is rising, ask the Government of India to have the point examined instead of saying, ' it is not our concern? "

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THE HON. SRI .B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The Government of India are fully aware through their Economic Adviser of the cost of living index in all the Provinces, and so there is no need for any Provincial Government to make a representation in the matter."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are Government aware that the increase in sales tax is one of the main reasons for the increase in the cost of living? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, I do not agree with the hon. Member." (Laughter.)

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will Government consider the payment of adequate dearness allowace to the poor pensioners? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" When our financial affairs are in a much better position we will consider it."

11-30 a.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that the Foodgrains Investigation Committee which recently visited Madras, pointed out that it was the enhancement of the sales tax which contributed, to some extent, the rise in the cost of living index? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I have seen their statement, Sir, and I have also discussed with them in the matter. Their views are no more authoritative than the views of the Provincial Government."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, we should like to have a half-an-hour debate on this question under rule 14, because this is a very important matter, which is agitating the public mind at the present time."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We have already spent nearly half-an-hour over this question, but my own feeling is that hon. Members are digressing far away from the question on the paper. I have allowed such questions, although they are not strictly relevant to the main question, because this is a very important matter. If. in spite of this, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition wants a half-an-hour debate still further, I do not think it is proper to allow such a debate."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, the cost of living is a very very important matter, and it is essential that the public should know about this and therefore we should like to have the debate. If it is not allowed now, at least we should be allowed to do so in the Food debate, which is coming in the course of this session."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Apart from that, it is not possible to have the debate to-day, because we are rising to-day at 1-30."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. President, the general discussion on the Demand for Supplementary Grants is coming up next week, and hon. Members can have their say on this matter at that time, Sir."